

Claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-16 have been amended.

Claims 8, 10, 13, and 17 have been cancelled.

Claim 18 has been added.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

Remarks

On page 2 of the Office Action dated March 24, 2006, Examiner objected to claim 1 as improperly using the phrase "comprising the steps of" in conjunction with the phrase "a step for". Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct this informality and respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

Examiner also rejected claims 1, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Regarding claim 1, Applicants have amended the claim to clarify that the "selector" is used to distinguished the value of introduced coins. Claim 11 has been amended to properly depend from claim 6. Claim 17 has been cancelled. In light of these changes, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection.

On page 3, Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, and 17, under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Smeets et al. (US 4,836,825). Applicants respectfully

disagree and offer the following remarks in response.

Examiner cited the Smeets reference (Column 6, lines 6 plus; Fig. 1, elements 6-11) as teaching coin stores, each designated to receive and store coins of a particular denomination, and a particular coin is passed to and stored in a particular reserve based on the denomination of the coin.

It is the primary object of the present invention to efficiently store coins in reserves capable of holding coins of multiple denominations, in order to prevent the common situation of one reserve filling to capacity before the others, and thus requiring a manual reloading of the magazine. (See instant application, [0012]-[0014].) The current invention allows coins of any type to be stored in any of the locations in any one of the reserves. "Such a method utilizes the fact that no location 50 of the reserves 32 is dedicated to a determined coin value." ([0132])

Smeets explicitly teaches away from this feature. "On completion of the sale, the coins, temporarily stored in buffer 5, are distributed to the different stores 6 through 11, according to their denomination." (Col. 6, lines 6-8)

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this distinction with the limitation "collecting the second coin into the reserve at the same location as the first coin," where the first and second coins are of different denominations. Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify the steps necessary to achieve this novel method of coin storage.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection be withdrawn from independent claim 1.

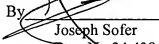
Since claims 2-7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-16 depend from independent claim 1, these

claims overcome this rejection for the same reasons.

Similarly, independent claim 18 has the claim limitation of "at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, including several locations, each location being able to receive only one coin of any value". Thus each reserve in the magazine is further subdivided into locations (as in coin slots in a wheel), capable of storing coins of any denomination. Thus, claim 18 overcomes the Smeets reference for reasons similar to that of claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-7, 9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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